

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 3-7 and 10-12 will be pending in the present application. Claims 3-7 were previously withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 and 11 are herein amended. Support for this amendment is found throughout the drawings, e.g., Fig. 3. Accordingly, no new matter has been entered.

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office action dated September 5, 2007.

Examiner Interview

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner Kacker during the personal interview conducted on February 27, 2008 and during the teleconferences preceding this personal interview. The subject matter of this interview is incorporated into Applicant's remarks presented below.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102(e)/103(a)

Claims 1 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over *Goodman et al* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,454,865).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of the cited reference for the reasons discussed in Applicant's response filed on June 28, 2007.

However, to expedite prosecution and clarify the subject matter of the present invention, Applicant herein further amends claims 1 and 11 to recite that "gas inlet notches are located in

diametrically opposite positions on the side surface of the susceptor with respect to a center point of the susceptor.” Support for this amendment is found, for example, in Fig. 3. Nowhere does *Goodman et al* describe having gas inlet notches located in diametric opposite positions on the side surface of a susceptor plate. Furthermore, it would not be obvious to modify *Goodman et al* to do, in part, because *Goodman et al* incorporates a completely different structure wherein gas is supplied to the pocket through recesses provided at the bottom of the susceptor. *See* Fig. 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the §102/103 rejection of claims 1 and 11.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant requests that the rejection of dependent claims 10 and 12 also be withdrawn based on dependency from independent claims 1 and 11.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants requests such action at an early date.

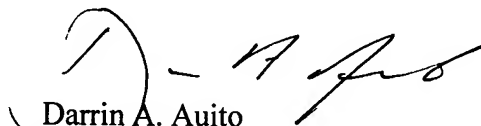
If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant’s undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Application No.: 10/626,675
Art Unit: 1763

Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 030901

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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